of fixing MSP on year to year basis helps in guaranteeing an assured price to the cotton farmers and sustain their continued interest in cotton cultivation. The import of cotton is under Open General Licence (OGL) since 19.4.1994 without any qualitative or quantitative restrictions and the said policy is still being continued. The existing basic custom duty on import of raw cotton is 10%. Import of cotton is the last year was 1.78% of the total production.

(c) MSP is fixed every year taking into account the cost of various inputs and a reasonable margin of profit. There is no proposal for increase of import duty on cotton.

(d) and (e) Question does not arise in view of above.

Extension of ADT on raw silk

407. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government to extend the Anti Dumping duty (ADT) for 5 more years to safeguard the interests of secriculture farmers of the country and to stablize sericulture and silk industry of the state;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Central Silk Board and State Government have sent any sunset review petitions to his Ministry in view of the fact that ADT on raw silk was to end by July, 2007; and

(d) if so, the salient features of such petitions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Central Silk Board in Association with various Silk Reelers Associations and the concerned State Departments *i.e.* Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu have filed a Sunset Review Petition before the Directorate General of anti-dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD), Ministry of Commerce during August 2007 for the extension of the Anti Dumping Duty for next 5 years providing all the required documents/evidences to continue the Anti Dumping Duty for another 5 years. The sunset review petition can be filed by the domestic industry before six months of its expiry. The Designated Authority can review the need for the continued imposition of the Anti Dumping Duty. The investigation for continuing the Anti dumping duty is likely to commence shortly.

Launching of new handlooms centres

408. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to increase the coverage of weavers cooperative societies;

(b) if so, the initiative taken especially in A.P. and the position thereof financially;

(c) whether Government is launching the new handloom centres; and

(d) if so, the details worked out so far with the outlay especially for A.P.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has informed that recently, many weavers who are in the unorganized sector have been brought into the Cooperative fold by registering 86 new Handloom Weavers Cooperative Societies in the State. An amount of Rs. 176.00 lakhs has been sanctioned by the Government of Andhra Pradesh towards share capital contribution @ Rs. 2.00 lakhs to each Handloom Weavers Cooperative society. The list of the newly registered societies in Andhra Pradesh is as follows:

Name of the District	No. of Societies registered
Prakasam	17
Mahaboobnagar	01
Karimnagar	01
Chittoor	10
Nalgonda	02
Nellore	01
Warangal	06
Kadapa	11
Guntur	17
Krishna	06
Ananthapur	13
Vizianagaram	01
TOTAL:	86

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Setting up of clusters in A.P.

409. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of clusters in the country especially in A.P.;

(b) the new locations identified State-wise especially in A.P.;

(c) the criteria set to establish such clusters in A.P.;

(d) the financial position thereof; and

(e) the working conditions in such clusters especially in A.P.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (e) As per the Handloom Census of 1995-96, there are 470 handlooms pockets across the country, which includes 23 in the state of Andhra Pradesh. During the year 2005-06, the Government of India identified 20 handloom clusters for their integrated and holistic development, which includes 2 clusters namely; Chirala and Madhavaram in Andhra Pradesh. Each cluster has about 5000 looms. During the year 2006-07, additional 100 clusters were identified for their development under the proposed Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme. This includes 10 clusters in the State of Andhra Pradesh, namely, (i) Payakaraopeta—Vishakhapatnam Distt., (ii) Pedana—Krishna Distt., (iii) Isukpalli, Illavaraim-Guntur. Mt., Guntur Distt (iv) Muddireddipally-Ananthapur Distt., (v) Proddutur-Cuddapah Distt., (vi) Siripuram-Yellanki-Nalgonda Distt., (vii) Gadwal—Mahboobnagar Distt., (viii) Puttapaka—Nalgonda Distt. (ix) Kothapalli—Karimnagar Distt. and (x) Yemmiganur—Kurnul Distt. These clusters were identified jointly by the State Government and Weavers' Service Centre concerned based on the potentiality for their development The Diagnostic Study of the these clusters have been conducted. In addition, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has been allotted a target of 15 clusters i.e. (i) Srikakulam, (ii) Vizianagaram, (iii) East Godavari, (iv) West Godavari, (v) Krishna, (vi) Prakasam, (vii) Nellor, (viii) Chittor, (ix) Ananthapur, (x) Kurnoor, (xi) Mahaboobnagar, (xii) Medak, (xiii) Karimnagar,